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Eradication of poverty and other development issues: implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 24 (see A/65/440, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 28th and 33rd meetings, on 12 November and 1 December 2010. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.28 and 33).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.38 and A/C.2/65/L.64

2. At the 28th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)" (A/C.2/65/L.38), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/265 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004, 60/209 of 22 December 2005, 61/213 of 20 December 2006, 62/205 of 19 December 2007, 63/230 of 19 December 2008 and 64/216 of 21 December 2009,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol A/65/440 and Add.1-2.

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"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, as well as the international commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

"*Recalling further* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling* its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

"*Recalling further* its resolution 57/265 on the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund,

"*Welcoming* the poverty-related discussions in the annual ministerial reviews held by the Economic and Social Council, which play an important supporting role in the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017),

"*Noting with appreciation* the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council on creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development, and also Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/25 of 23 July 2010 entitled 'Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: a Global Jobs Pact',

"*Recalling* its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009 on the outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,

"*Recalling also* the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,

"*Recalling further* the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

"*Recalling* the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,

"*Underlining* the fact that, in the face of the current multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as the financial and economic crisis, the food crisis, volatile energy and commodity prices and climate change, cooperation and increased commitment by all relevant partners, including the public sector, the private sector and civil society, are needed more than ever, and recognizing in this context the urgent need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Expressing concern* that, after the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) and five years from the 2015 target date of the Millennium Development Goals, while there has been progress in reducing poverty in some regions, this progress has been uneven and the number of

people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

"*Recognizing* that rates of economic growth vary among countries and that these differences must be addressed by, among other actions, promoting pro-poor growth and social protection,

"*Concerned* at the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind,

"*Reaffirming* that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Africa and in least developed countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based and inclusive economic growth, including full, productive employment generation and decent work,

"*Recognizing* that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing also* the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and to pursue sustainable development,

"*Acknowledging* that good governance at the national and international levels and sustained and inclusive economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work, rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment,

"*Underlining* the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"1. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, related to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

"2. *Also reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and recognizes that national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes,

measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

"3. *Calls upon* the international community to address the root causes of extreme poverty;

"4. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels;

"5. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, which is critical for the eradication of poverty;

"6. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty and calls upon donor countries to support national efforts of developing countries in this regard, through adequate predictable financial resources on a bilateral and multilateral basis;

"7. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

"8. *Reaffirms* the commitment to promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and also reaffirms that macroeconomic policies should, inter alia, support employment creation, taking fully into account the social and environmental impact and dimensions of globalization, and that these concepts are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore a priority objective of international cooperation;

"9. *Emphasizes* that education and training are among the critical factors in empowering those living in poverty, while recognizing the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication, and in this regard recognizes the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in particular its contribution to international advocacy for eradicating poverty by, inter alia, elaborating pedagogical tools for grass-roots organizations and policymakers;

"10. *Reaffirms* the need to fulfil all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, and to reach the level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for development assistance by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries;

"11. *Calls for* the speedy and effective operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund, stresses in this regard the need for the donor community to provide the necessary resources to fulfil the financial requirements of the Fund, and requests the Secretary-General to request the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the Economic and Social Council, starting from its substantive session of 2011, an annual progress report on the measures taken for the operationalization of the Fund;

"12. *Recognizes* that sustained and inclusive economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment;

"13. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socio-economic approaches to overcoming poverty and inequality;

"14. *Welcomes* the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as the coordinator for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

"15. *Reiterates* its call to the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to consider activities to implement the Second Decade, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;

"16. *Takes note* of the inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication involving more than twenty-one agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, and requests the Secretary-General to provide details on the implementation of this plan of action to the Member States;

"17. *Recalls* its decision to convene, during its sixty-eighth session, a meeting of the General Assembly at the highest appropriate political level devoted to the issue of poverty eradication, and stresses that the meeting should be organized in the most effective and efficient manner;

"18. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to support the theme 'Full employment and decent work for all' for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

"19. *Urges* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to continue their joint activity to implement the Global Jobs Pact, in close cooperation with Member States, and taking into account their national development policies and priorities;

"20. *Urges* the international community and the United Nations system to implement the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, in support of the objectives of the Second Decade;

"21. *Urges* the United Nations system to support Member States, at their request, in strengthening their macroeconomic policy capacity and national development strategies for achieving the objectives of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

"22. *Encourages* greater convergence and inter-agency collaboration in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key policy areas underlying the decent work agenda and strengthening system-wide policy coherence on employment issues, including through avoiding the duplication of efforts;

"23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled 'Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)', and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At its 33rd meeting, on 1 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)" (A/C.2/65/L.64), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.38.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.64 had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Rapporteur orally corrected the draft resolution by combining the fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs in a single preambular paragraph.

6. Also at its 33rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.64, as orally corrected (see para. 9).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.64, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.38 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

8. At its 33rd meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty (A/65/267) (see para. 10).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/265 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004, 60/209 of 22 December 2005, 61/213 of 20 December 2006, 62/205 of 19 December 2007, 63/230 of 19 December 2008 and 64/216 of 21 December 2009,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,[1] as well as the international commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Recalling its resolutions 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, and 63/303 of 9 July 2009 on the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,

Recalling also its resolution 57/265 of 28 February 2003 on the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund,

Welcoming the poverty-related discussions in the annual ministerial reviews held by the Economic and Social Council, which play an important supporting role in the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017),

Noting with appreciation the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council on creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development,[3] and also Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/25 of 23 July 2010 entitled "Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: a Global Jobs Pact",

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/61/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 50.

Recalling the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[4]

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development[5] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[6]

Recalling further the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,[7]

Underlining the fact that, in the face of the ongoing adverse impacts of the multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as the financial and economic crisis, the food crisis, volatile energy and commodity prices and climate change, cooperation and increased commitment by all relevant partners, including the public sector, the private sector and civil society, are needed more than ever, and recognizing in this context the urgent need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing concern that, after the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) and five years from the 2015 target date of the Millennium Development Goals, while there has been progress in reducing poverty in some regions, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and in particular in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recognizing that rates of economic growth vary among countries and that these differences must be addressed by, among other actions, promoting pro-poor growth and social protection,

Concerned at the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, in particular in Africa and in least developed countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based and inclusive economic growth, including full, productive employment generation and decent work,

Recognizing that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and to pursue sustainable development,

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[4] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[6] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[7] See resolution 65/1.

Acknowledging that good governance at the national and international levels and sustained and inclusive economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work, rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

1. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, relating to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

2. *Also reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and recognizes that increased effective national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

3. *Calls upon* the international community, including Member States, to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels;

5. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, which is critical for the eradication of poverty;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty and upon donor countries in a position to do so to support the effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard, through adequate, predictable financial resources on either a bilateral or a multilateral basis;

7. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

8. *Reaffirms* the commitment to promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and also reaffirms that macroeconomic policies should, inter alia, support employment creation, taking

fully into account the social and environmental impact and dimensions of globalization, and that these concepts are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore a priority objective of international cooperation;

9. *Emphasizes* that education and training are among the critical factors in empowering those living in poverty, while recognizing the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication, and in this regard recognizes the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in coordinating the Education for All partners and in promoting the development of sector-wide education policies by, inter alia, elaborating pedagogical tools for grass-roots organizations and policymakers;

10. *Recognizes* the role of other United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme, in contributing to international advocacy for eradicating poverty, including through education and training;

11. *Reaffirms* the need to fulfil all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and to reach the level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for development assistance by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

12. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact, and recognizes that the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, together with recent initiatives such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action,[8] make important contributions to the efforts of those countries which have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

13. *Resolves* to work to operationalize the World Solidarity Fund established by the General Assembly and invites Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the Fund, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his report on the implementation of the present resolution measures taken and recommendations to better operationalize the Fund;

14. *Recognizes* that sustained and inclusive economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socio-economic approaches to overcoming poverty and inequality;

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[8] A/63/539, annex.

16. *Recognizes* the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as the coordinator for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

17. *Reiterates* its call to the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to consider activities to implement the Second Decade, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;

18. *Takes note* of the inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication involving more than twenty-one agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, and requests the Secretary-General to provide details on the implementation of the plan of action to the Member States;

19. *Reaffirms* the need to give the highest priority to its consideration of the question of poverty eradication, and in that regard recalls its decision, in resolution 63/230, as a contribution to the Second Decade, to convene, at its sixty-eighth session, a meeting of the General Assembly at the highest appropriate political level centred on the review process devoted to the theme relating to the issue of poverty eradication, and stresses that the meeting and the preparatory activities should be carried out within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2012-2013 and should be organized in the most effective and efficient manner;

20. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to support the theme "Full employment and decent work for all" for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

21. *Notes with concern* the continuing high levels of unemployment as a consequence of the global financial and economic crisis, recognizes that decent work remains one of the best routes out of poverty, and in this regard invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, to adopt policies consistent with the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Organization as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development;

22. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the outcome documents relating to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

23. *Also urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development[9] in support of the objectives of the Second Decade;

24. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to support Member States, at their request, in strengthening their macroeconomic policy capacity and national development strategies so as to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

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[9] Resolution 63/303, annex.

25. *Encourages* greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration within the United Nations system in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key policy areas underlying the decent work agenda and strengthening system-wide policy coherence on employment issues, including by avoiding duplication of effort;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

10. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty.[1]

[1] A/65/267.